



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Superintendent of Schools

At its meeting held March 29, 2005, the Board took the following action:

86-A

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“A study by the Harvard Civil Rights Project and the Urban Institute found that California’s reported graduation rate of 87% dramatically underestimates the actual number of dropouts. According to a report ‘Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis in California,’ the researchers found that the actual graduation rate is probably closer to 71%. Graduation rates for minority students were lower: 57% for African Americans, 60% for Latinos and 52% for Native Americans. Rates for minority males dropped even lower.

“The discrepancy in the State’s official graduation rate is that districts often report students who never receive diplomas as having transferred to another school and accurate data on dropouts are often unavailable.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, and by common consent, there being no objection, the Superintendent of Schools was instructed to:

1. Compile statistics for:
 - High School and Middle School dropout rates by all school districts within Los Angeles County;
 - Minority breakdown of graduation rates by school districts; and
 - The method used to calculate graduation rates by school districts; and
2. Report back to the Board within 60 days with a written, detailed report, including measures and recommendations on how to increase the graduation rates for all districts within Los Angeles County.

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